

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00131 01 OF 03 050349Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 HAMILTON 131

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TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: 1977 ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT FOR BERMUDA

REFS: A) STATE 41169; B) STATE 38356

1. US INTERESTS - ALTHOUGH BERMUDA IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS TRANQUILITY AND BALMY CLIMATE, THE UNITED STATES HAS ENOUGH INTERESTS IN BERMUDA TO ENDOW THIS POST WITH SOME IMPORTANT POLICY INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. AMONG THESE ARE:

A) STRATEGIC LOCATION - THE US-LEASED BASES HERE PROVIDE MILITARY AIR AND SURFACE VESSEL FACILITIES OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO OUR PEACE-TIME ANTI-SUBMARINE AND AIR SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS AND OFFERING VIABLE WAR-TIME TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC POSITION.

B) ECONOMIC INTERESTS - THE US HAS THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE BERMUDA MARKET (42.5 PER CENT OF BERMUDA'S IMPORTS IN 1975). A LARGE PORTION OF OVER 3600 EXEMPTED COMPANIES (FIRMS INCORPORATED HERE BUT DOING BUSINESS ELSEWHERE) WHICH CALL BERMUDA HOME ARE US-OWNED OR CONTROLLED. AMERICANS OWN OUTRIGHT OR HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EQUITY INTEREST

IN FIVE OF THE SIX LARGEST HOTELS IN BERMUDA, AND IN THREE SMALLER PROPERTIES AS WELL. TOTAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT BY THE SUBSTANTIAL AMERICAN COLONY HERE PROBABLY RIVALS OUR HOTEL INVESTMENTS
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PAGE 02 HAMILT 00131 01 OF 03 050349Z

IN MAGNITUDE. BERMUDA'S TOURIST TRADE IS OF COMMERCIAL BENEFIT TO THE US THROUGH RETURNS ON DIRECT US INVESTMENT IN TOURIST INFRA-STRUCTURE AND IN THE FORM OF AIR CARRIER REVENUES (AMERICAN FLAG AIR-LINES NOW ENJOY A MONOPOLY ON ROUTES WHICH BROUGHT 390,724 TOURISTS FROM THE US IN 1976).

C) THE LARGE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE - ASIDE FROM AMERICAN TOURISTS (AT PEAK PERIODS THESE CAN TOTAL SOME 13,000 IN ANY SINGLE DAY) AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 2800 AMERICANS RESIDING HERE (1484 REGISTERED). STATUTORY AND OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES RENDERED TO VISITORS AND RESIDENT AMERICANS TOGETHER WITH VISA PROCESSING FOR BERMUDIANS AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS COMPRISE AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE POST'S YEAR-ROUND INTERESTS AND FUNCTIONS.

2. OVERVIEW - BERMUDA'S GOVERNMENT, PATTERNED ON THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY MODEL, IS AUTONOMOUS IN MOST INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WITH BRITAIN RETAINING RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE POPULATION (56,000) IS APPROXIMATELY 2/3RDS BLACK AND 1/3RD WHITE. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT PARTY (UNITED BERMUDA PARTY - UBP)

IS CONSERVATIVE, PRO-BUSINESS AND PRO-AMERICAN AND IS BI-RACIAL (BUT MOSTLY WHITE) IN MEMBERSHIP. THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY (PLP), WITH FIFTEEN OF FORTY PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, HAS MOSTLY BLACK ADHERENTS, DERIVES SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM ORGANIZED LABOR AND ADVOCATES A MORE SOCIALISTIC AND ANTI-COLONIALIST COURSE. THE THREAT WHICH THE PLP WILL ULTIMATELY POSE TO OUR BASIC INTERESTS IN BERMUDA HAS NOT BEEN PRECISELY DEFINED, BUT IS PROBABLY SMALL AND WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON THE INFLUENCE WIELDED BY THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY WHICH IS DIRECTED BY SMALL ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS. MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE FAMILY TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE RESULT OF CENTURIES OF INTER-MARRIAGE BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.

3. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR WHICH HAS SURFACED WITH THE PAST SIX MONTHS IS EARLY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONY.
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PAGE 03 HAMILT 00131 01 OF 03 050349Z

I AM CONVINCED THAT INDEPENDENCE WILL BE A REALITY WITH THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR YEARS. THE SUBJECT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BERMUDA BOTH IN THE NEAR TERM DURING ITS GESTATION AND IN THE LONG TERM AFTER INDEPENDENCE, WILL REQUIRE SOME RE-EVALUATION OF OUR CURRENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER DEVELOP OUR INTERESTS

HERE. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY HOW SWIFTLY THE CONCEPT OF EARLY INDEPENDENCE, ONCE SURFACED BY GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN IN SEPTEMBER, HAS TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN AND SEEMINGLY BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL SEGMENTS

OF LOCAL OPINION AS DESIRABLE, OR AT LEAST INEVITABLE. IN FACT, PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE ISSUE NOW SEEMS TO BE AHEAD OF THE COLONY'S POLITICAL LEADERS AND IT IS NOW DOUBTFUL THAT THE PRESENT

GOVERNMENT COULD DELAY ITS CONSUMMATION IF IT WANTED TO.

4. IN ADDITION TO EARLY INITIATIVES TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE, THE OTHER KEY FACTOR WILL BE A CONTINUAL JOCKEYING FOR ADVANTAGE BY BOTH LOCAL POLITICAL PARTIES IN ADVANCE OF WHAT PROMISES TO BE A HARD-FOUGHT

ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 1980-81. THE POLITICAL SKIRMISHING WILL UN-
DOUBTEDLY PRODUCE SOME DISCONTINUITIES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES,

BUT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO THE LEASED
BASES AGREEMENT, I DO NOT EXPECT ANY OF OUR BASIC INTERESTS HERE TO
BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALLS. A LESS LIKELY SCENARIO COULD SEE THE
UBP, VISIBLY FRAYING AROUND THE EDGES AFTER 1976'S MILD ELECTORAL SET-

BACKS, UNRAVELING COMPLETELY, LEADING TO A FUNDAMENTAL REALIGNMENT OF
POLITICAL FORCES HERE. I CONSIDER IT MUCH MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT
THE
UBP'S RACIAL AND ECONOMIC COALITIONS WILL HOLD TOGETHER AT LEAST
THROUGH
THE NEXT ELECTION (I.E., INTO THE NEXT DECADE). WHATEVER THE COLONY'S
INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, I EXPECT THAT INDEPENDENCE AND THE
NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR IT TO BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF OUR
RELATIONS WITH BERMUDA FOR THE REST OF THE 1970'S.
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PAGE 04 HAMILT 00131 01 OF 03 050349Z

5. POST INITIATIVES IN THE PAST HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INSTITUTIONALIZE
THE TRADITIONAL BERMUDA GOODWILL TOWARD THE US WHILE ATTEMPTING TO
ALLEVIATE POTENTIAL STRAINS BEFORE THEY EMERGE AS SERIOUS PROBLEMS
IN OUR RELATIONS. PAST EXAMPLES INCLUDE A JOINT ANTI-HIJACKING

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00131 02 OF 03 050348Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 HAMILTON 131

AGREEMENT, A 1976 AGREEMENT ON US ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF SERIOUS OIL

SPILLS IN BERMUDA WATERS AND A 1974 AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVING PASSENGER
PRE-CLEARANCE FACILITIES FOR US CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION/NATURALIZATION

SERVICE INSPECTORS AT BERMUDA'S CIVIL AIR TERMINAL, WHICH IS CURRENTLY

BEING IMPLEMENTED. BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF RECESSION OF SOME OF THE
LAND GRANTED THE US UNDER THE US-UK LEASED BASES AGREEMENT OF 1941
HAS CONTINUED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WITH THE AIM OF RESOLVING
POSSIBLE LOCAL PRESSURES IN THIS CONNECTION BEFORE THEY EMERGE AS
POLITICAL ISSUES. THE PROTRACTED NATURE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN

DUE TO FREQUENT CHANGES IN THE NEGOTIATING CAST (GOB CABINET RE-
SHUFFLES AND THE PENDING TRANSFER OF THE ENTIRE US NAVY NEGOTIATING
TEAM) AND THE THE COMPLEX, TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED.
MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER, PLP SPOKESMEN HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE A VOCAL
INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. I EXPECT THIS IN TURN TO STIMULATE GOB
INTERESTS IN CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THE UBP CAN STILL
DERIVE
SOME POLITICAL BENEFIT BY SO DOING.

6. AS THE LIST OF RECENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WOULD SUGGEST, SINCE
BERMUDA ATTAINED FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN 1968, BRITAIN'S
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COLONY'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS STEADILY ERODED
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PAGE 02 HAMILT 00131 02 OF 03 050348Z

AND THIS POST'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NURTURING BILATERAL TIES WITH
THE GOB HAS GROWN APACE. BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO POTENTIAL
STRAINS, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL US IMAGE
(ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SUBSCRIBED TO HERE) OF PROFOUND CONCERN FOR
BERMUDA'S WELFARE. THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN THE PAST WERE OFTEN

OF THE SORT WHICH LOCAL INITIATIVE COULD ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH. I
ANTICIPATE THAT, AS INDEPENDENCE STEADILY AND RAPIDLY APPROACHES, OUR
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WILL BE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH ISSUES FOR
WHICH A GREATER AMOUNT OF WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND BACK-STOPPING WILL
BE REQUIRED.

7. OBJECTIVES, COURSES OF ACTION AND ISSUES - THE TRADITIONAL POLICY
OBJECTIVE OF THIS POST HAS BEEN THE RELATIVELY UNCONTROVERSIAL TASK
OF IDENTIFYING AND REMOVING MINOR STRAINS IN OUR GENERALLY EXCELLENT
BILATERAL RELATIONS. GIVEN THE DEEP RESERVOIR OF RESPECT OUR NATION
ENJOYS AMONG BERMUDIANS OF EVERY POLITICAL PERSUASION, AND THE DEGREE
OF BERMUDA'S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE UPON THE US, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT
ANY SHARP POLICY DIFFERENCES WILL ARISE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
THE COLONY'S ADVANCE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WILL INEVITABLY REQUIRE A
DETAILED LOOK AT OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN BERMUDA, OUR POSITION ON
BILATERAL LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, AN EXAMINATION
OF THE ROLE WE WISH BERMUDA TO PLAY IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS. OUR
TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS WITH BERMUDA'S GOVERNMENT SHOULD AFFORD
US AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE BOTH THE BROAD OUTLINES AND MANY

OF THE DETAILS OF BERMUDA'S POST-INDEPENDENCE ARRANGEMENTS, SHOULD WE WISH TO DO SO. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE BERMUDIANS WILL APPROACH US FOR GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE. OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IS FOR THE USG TO DECIDE WHAT ROLE IT WILL ASSUME TOWARDS THE COLONY AS IT BEGINS TO OIL THE MACHINERY OF INDEPENDENCE. FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HERE, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT LOCALS BOTH IN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR LOOK FORWARD TO UNREALISTICALLY CLOSE TIES WITH THE US AFTER INDEPENDENCE. SPECIFIC ISSUES LIKELY TO ARISE IN THE GESTATION PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE INCLUDE:

A. SECURITY: BERMUDA HAS BEEN A KEY MID-ATLANTIC NAVAL AND, MORE
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PAGE 03 HAMILT 00131 02 OF 03 050348Z

RECENTLY, AIR BASE FOR ONE GREAT POWER OR ANOTHER SINCE THE NAPOLEONIC WARS. IN THE PAST, BERMUDA HAS BEEN USED AS A BASE FOR FRUSTRATION OF THE POLICIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN EPISODES AS DIVERSE AS THE WAR OF 1812, THE OPERATIONS OF CONFEDERATE BLOCKADE-RUNNERS AND PROHIBITION-ERA RUM-RUNNING. WHILE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES MAY HAVE RENDERED BERMUDA LESS STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANCE AS A BASE, THE DENIAL OF LOCAL AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES (LARGELY DEVELOPED AT OUR EXPENSE) TO UNFRIENDLY POWERS SHOULD REMAIN A PRIME OBJECTIVE FOR US.

BERMUDIANS TEND TO REGARD THE AMERICAN BASES HERE AS CONSTITUTING AN IMPLICIT US DEFENSE GUARANTEE FOR THE COLONY. WHILE OUR BASES NO LONGER MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, THE AMERICAN DEFENSE PRESENCE IS VALUED BY VIRTUALLY ALL SEGMENTS OF LOCAL OPINION,

INCLUDING LEADERS OF BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES. THE US NAVY'S DELIBERATELY LOW PROFILE AND EXCELLENT PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM HAVE HELPED AVOID CALLING UNDUE LOCAL ATTENTION TO A LEASED BASES AGREEMENT THAT IS HIGHLY SUITED TO BROAD AMERICAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS. THE ON-GOING BASE LAND LEASE-BACK NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR FORESTALLING ANY STRAINS WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM OUR CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE. IN LINE WITH THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACH TO THIS POSITIVE OBJECTIVE, AND ACCEPTING THAT THE CURRENT BASIC POINT OF DISPUTE CENTERS AROUND A FIXED ANNUAL COST TO THE USG OF APPROXIMATELY \$25,000,

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ASSUME A MORE FLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING POSITION WHICH WILL PUT TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL THIS PROTRACTED DISCUSSION WHICH COULD PRODUCE A MINOR BUT PUBLICLY DISTORTED IRRITANT TO OUR POSITION HERE.

A POTENTIAL PROBLEM I FORESEE WITH THIS USEFUL ARRANGEMENT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BERMUDIANS, AS PART OF THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE, MAY APPROACH US CONCERNING A MORE EXPLICIT AMERICAN DEFENSE GUARANTEE FOR BERMUDA. THIS SUBJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY SURFACED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH THE PREMIER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH ME. THE
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PAGE 04 HAMILT 00131 02 OF 03 050348Z

GOB'S DRAFT GREEN PAPER ON INDEPENDENCE MENTIONS THE ISSUE ONLY IN PASSING. AN EARLY APPROACH ON THIS QUESTION IS INEVITABLE AND WE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

WHILE THE GOB HAS NOT YET APPROACHED US OFFICIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH A DEFENSE GUARANTEE, THEY HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE FCO REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF BERMUDIAN MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. I UNDERSTAND THAT FORMAL ACCESSION OF BERMUDA TO THE NATO ALLIANCE WOULD OBLIGATE THE

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00131 050106Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF THREE HAMILTON 131

GOB TO MAINTENANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS AND TO CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATO CIVIL BUDGET. THE IDEA OF FULL MEMBERSHIP WILL THEREFORE PROBABLY NOT RECOMMEND ITSELF ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS. ON THE OTHER HAND,

A BERMUDA ASSOCIATION WITH NATO AT LESS THAN A FULL MEMBER STATUS (A BRITISH COUNTER-PROPOSAL) WOULD SEEM TO ENTAIL CERTAIN ADVANTAGES FOR US. A FORMAL GOB CONNECTION WITH NATO WOULD SEEM COMPATIBLE WITH SEVERAL OF OUR POLICY INTERESTS, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE COLORATION TO OUR OWN MILITARY PRESENCE (CONVERTING IT FROM A BI-LATERAL TO A MULTILATERAL BASIS), PROVIDE AN EXTERNAL DEFENSE GUARANTEE FOR BERMUDA WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR OUR ASSUMING A UNILATERAL RESPONSIBILITY, SERVE AS ADDITIONAL INSURANCE AGAINST USE OF LOCAL FACILITIES BY UNFRIENDLY POWERS, WHATEVER OUR OWN EVENTUAL PLANS FOR OUR BASES AND HELP PERPETUATE BERMUDA'S SELF-IMAGE AS A NORTH ATLANTIC, RATHER THAN CARIBBEAN NATION. THE USG SHOULD. THEREFORE FULLY SUPPORT AN ASSOCIATE NATO STATUS FOR AN INDEPENDENT BERMUDA.

B. LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES: BERMUDA PLANS TO PROCLAIM A 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED INFORMALLY BY GOB CIVIL SERVANTS REGARDING POSSIBLE US ASSISTANCE IN MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF THE NEW ZONE. THE GOB PRESENTLY HAS NO OFFSHORE PATROL CAPABILITY ITSELF, AND DEPLOYMENT OF ROYAL NAVY VESSELS IN THE AREA HAS BEEN CURTAILED TO A LEVEL WHICH OFFERS LOCAL OFFICIALS LITTLE ASSISTANCE IN THIS CONNECTION. OUR TENTATIVE DISCUSSIONS HAVE REVEALED A SURPRISINGLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HAMILT 00131 050106Z

REALISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE PART OF GOB OFFICIALS (AT LEAST AT WORKING LEVELS) AS TO WHAT ASSISTANCE WE COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE. WHILE THE MATTER REQUIRES FURTHER ELABORATION, I ANTICIPATE THAT A FORMAL REQUEST FOR FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE ASSISTANCE WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING FROM POLICY LEVELS OF THE GOB. I CONSIDER THAT THE USE OF US NAVY OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT TO ASSIST

IN ENFORCING ANOTHER NATION'S LAWS COULD RAISE STICKY QUESTIONS IN THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THUS FAR IN THOSE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS HELD ON THIS SUBJECT I HAVE BEEN DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE IN MY APPROACH.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE AIRCRAFT OF THE PIPER AZTEC TYPE WOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR THE TYPE OF "SPOT CHECK" SURVEILLANCE THE LOCALS HAVE IN MIND. WE MIGHT THEREFORE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SCREENING DOD SURPLUS STOCKS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN AIRCRAFT OF THIS TYPE COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS OWN SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS.

C. OTHER POTENTIAL BILATERAL ISSUES: ONCE INDEPENDENT, BERMUDA WILL CLAIM THE OPTION OF CONTINUING OR RENEGOTIATING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH AFFECT HER. (THIS OPTION IS STATED EXPRESSLY IN THE GREEN PAPER ON INDEPENDENCE.) AS INDEPENDENCE APPROACHES, WE WILL NEED TO INVENTORY THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED (SUCH AS THE US-UK CIVAIR AGREEMENT PRESENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION) AND OUR LIKELY OBJECTIVES SHOULD WE BE OBLIGED TO NEGOTIATE NEW BILATERALS. WE WILL REQUIRE EARLY GUIDANCE FROM L ON PRECEDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO SUCCESSION OF EMERGING STATES TO LONG-STANDING AGREEMENTS MADE WITH THE MOTHER COUNTRY (SUCH AS THE LEASED BASES AGREEMENT) WHERE THERE IS A SERVITUDE ON THE LAND GRANTED TO THE THIRD STATE BY THE MOTHER CONUTRY.

D. BERMUDA'S MEMBERSHIP IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS: ONCE INDEPENDENT, BERMUDA WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF JOINING SUCH MULTILATERAL BODIES AS THE OAS AND UN (IN ADDITION TO ANY DECISION CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 HAMILT 00131 050106Z

MADE CONCERNING NATO ASSOCIATION). THE PRESENT GOB WILL PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN UN MEMBERSHIP, AT LEAST AT FIRST, ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS. IT IS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY INEVITABLE THAT BERMUDA WILL AT SOME POINT SEEK UN MEMBERSHIP, IF ONLY AS AN ASSERTION OF NATIONHOOD. IS IT OUR POLICY TO ENCOURAGE UN OR OAS MEMBERSHIP FOR MICRO-STATES (BEARING IN MIND THAT BERMUDA SHARES A SIMILAR STANDARD OF LIVING AND "DEVELOPED" WORLD-VIEW, AND COULD THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO VOTE WITH US ON MOST ISSUES)? AGAIN, THE POST COULD PROBABLY INFLUENCE BERMUDA'S PLANS IN THIS CONNECTION, AT LEAST OVER THE SHORT RUN.

8. IN SUMMARY, THERE ARE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE TRADITIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THIS POST. THE PREVIOUSLY COMFORTABLE METHOD OF CONDUCTING RELATIONS WITH THE COLONY WILL BE MATERIALLY DISTORTED AS DISCUSSION OF MECHANICS FOR AND ULTIMATE REALIZATION OF INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPS. ACCEPTING THAT BERMUDIANS WILL BE APPROACHING ME FOR GENERAL, TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE REGARDING THE ROLE MY GOVERNMENT WILL BE WILLING TO ASSUME THROUGH ALL THESE PHASES MENTIONED ABOVE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DEPARTMENT GIVE EARLY FOCUS TO THE DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS SET FORTH IN THIS ASSESSMENT AND PROVIDE EARLY GUIDANCE ON BOTH THE MAJOR AND MINOR ISSUES RAISED.

TO BEST GET THIS OFF ON THE RIGHT TRACK, I REQUEST THAT A CONSULTATION PERIOD BE ARRANGED IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY AT WHICH TIME I COULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF AND CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, DOD AND ANY OTHER AGENCIES WHOSE INTERESTS

IN BERMUDA MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE RAPIDLY CHANGING PICTURE HERE.
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